

Message

From: Fernandez, Cristina [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5D527D0DD7E24EB5B1777B00A8EE6B2A-CFERNAND]
Sent: 5/11/2021 1:15:57 PM
To: Driscoll, Stacie [Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov]; Melvin, Karen [Melvin.Karen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

No worries. Thanks for sharing. I will ask Chad to share the end result with all of us. I have a meeting with him this morning.

I asked Samantha, but have not heard from her.

Cristina Fernandez, Director
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U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street
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Work: (215) 814-2178
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From: Driscoll, Stacie <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>; Melvin, Karen <Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hi – the attached is what I sent to Chad. Sorry for not including you; this whole thing has become somewhat confusing as to who will be responding on behalf of the Region and who will be responding to the reporter (the Region or HQ). I'll make sure to keep you in the loop as we get more info.

Stacie Driscoll, Deputy Director
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Phone: 215-814-3368

From: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Melvin, Karen <Melvin.Karen@epa.gov>; Driscoll, Stacie <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hi Stacie,

Could we see what your responses were? Just trying to make sure we all have the facts.

In air, we didn't have any answers for the 4 additional questions asked.

I also don't know how Samantha's group responded to the other questions.

Thanks, Cristina

Cristina Fernandez, Director
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From: Driscoll, Stacie <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 9:26 AM

To: Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>; Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>; Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>; Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>

Cc: Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Harris, Reggie <HARRIS.REGGIE@EPA.GOV>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Good Morning,

My folks are coordinating a response to #s 1 and 3. We have learned that our HQ counterparts are working with the AAs office to prepare a response. I've asked my staff to provide input on the site-specific questions and share only with me to avoid any confusion and to ensure we respond collectively as a Region.

Stacie Driscoll, Deputy Director
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From: Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 4:26 PM

To: Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>; Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>; Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>

Cc: Driscoll, Stacie <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>; Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Harris, Reggie <HARRIS.REGGIE@EPA.GOV>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

We are gathering the tri data and I will touch base with Alice Chow, as the email states that she was interviewed about eto. This question and our response is complicated by the combination question here. We will get back to you by 930 am Monday- as I am having issues tracking down everyone this Friday afternoon. The EJ answer is why I have pushed for the ARP funding for Appalachia...

Samantha Phillips Beers Director
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215-814-2627

From: Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>; Beers, Samantha <Beers.Samantha@epa.gov>; Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Samantha,

Could you please help us with the media request below about Kanawa County, WV?

Chitra

Chitra Kumar
Acting Associate Director
US EPA Office of Environmental Justice
202-564-2232

From: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; Kumar, Chitra <Kumar.Chitra@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

OPA sent over a media request for OEJ to answer. I am not familiar with the area in question, but if I can get some bullet points I can put a formal response together. Deadline is noon Monday (quick). The question for us is:

What environmental justice concerns, if any, does EPA have about Kanawha County, W.Va., whose poverty rate was nearly 6% higher than the national average in 2019 and which had four of the 41 Census tracts with the highest total cancer risk nationwide in the 2014 NATA?

Thanks,
Christina

From: Joseph, Dominique <Joseph.Dominique@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Motilall, Christina <Motilall.Christina@epa.gov>
Subject: MEDIA QUERY: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hey Christina,

Could you help us with a response to question 4 about the EJ concerns? We think there may be one sentence on the TRI changes that we can link to EJ, but the question is a bit deeper than that and we thought it should probably go through you for the meat of the response. **Deadline is Monday at noon.**

Thanks!

Dominique

Dominique Joseph (she/her/hers)

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From: Mike Tony <mtony@hdmediallc.com>

Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 10:51 AM

To: Labbe, Ken <Labbe.Ken@epa.gov>; Beal, Madeline <Beal.Madeline@epa.gov>; Joseph, Dominique <Joseph.Dominique@epa.gov>

Subject: Gazette-Mail/Union Carbide & Toxic Release Questions

Hello:

My name is Mike Tony, and I'm a reporter with the Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette-Mail. I interviewed Alice Chow of EPA's air quality analysis branch last week about EPA and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection air and risk exposure modeling efforts at Union Carbide facilities in Institute and South Charleston, W.Va. She deferred comment on a few toxic release inventory-related questions I had since that's not her focus area, and I wanted to see if you might be able to set up a phone interview sometime next week with an EPA official who could answer the following questions and perhaps a few others as I continue research on this subject. I can be reached via email or at 304-348-1236. Thanks so much for any help you can provide.

1. The EPA says ethylene oxide releases decreased 29% from 2007 to 2019 nationwide, but according to its facility report, the South Charleston Union Carbide facility released three times more ethylene oxide in 2019 than it did in 2010. Does EPA know what is causing this increase, and does it run counter to ethylene oxide emissions trends nationwide?
2. The RSEI score in 2019 for the Union Carbide facility in Institute, W.Va. was 350,377 and the RSEI score for the Union Carbide facility in W.Va. was 732,408. The U.S. median was 14. How should local residents think about that discrepancy in RSEI scores?
3. The Union Carbide facility in Institute's release of nitrate compounds has increased significantly in recent years, from 171,744 in 2016 to 585,489 in 2019. Does EPA have any insight into why and what the potential health risks are from nitrate compound releases?
4. What environmental justice concerns, if any, does EPA have about Kanawha County, W.Va., whose poverty rate was nearly 6% higher than the national average in 2019 and which had four of the 41 Census tracts with the highest total cancer risk nationwide in the 2014 NATA?